

He does not find it necessary to go to church every Sunday. When he does go, he has a pleasant feeling as he walks down the aisle, a pleasant feeling as he walks up the aisle, and the man on the pulpit doesn't bother him too much in between.

My father is a man's man. He has many friends and no enemies. He has the ability to "get along" with everybody. He is an excellent conversationalist. His secret, which is really no secret, being the ability to listen and to enjoy listening.

My father's status among his offspring is that of a best friend and confidential advisor. He holds more respect in this position than he could ever hold as the more austere type of father.

He is not the least bit ambitious in a monetary sense. He doesn't work very often and then only long enough to make as much money as we need. He thinks a man who makes a lot of money is the second worst thing there is, the worst being a man who is given a lot of money. He has given my grandfather strict orders not to leave him or anyone in his family any money. He thinks it would be a dirty trick. He firmly believes that the best thing that could happen to him would be to go bankrupt. He thinks then we could all go to work and be a much happier and more integrated family. I think probably he's right.

My father is human and real and well-integrated and if I may express a slightly prejudiced opinion, quite wonderful.

## Teeth Tales

VIRGINIA RODMAN

False teeth and the fashion of filling teeth were known even by the ancient Egyptians, but the science of dentistry is a fairly recent one. Just as far back as colonial days when life was centered in New England, the care of teeth was very crude as compared to modern methods.

To keep teeth from rotting, New Englanders were advised to wash the mouth continually with lemon juice and rub the teeth with sage leaves. Today we read countless numbers of articles on vitamins, calories, and what to eat or what not to eat to insure healthy teeth.

The colonial lady chewed mastic (a resinous substance extracted from the mastic tree) until it was as soft as wax, then stopped the cavity with it, leaving it there until consumed. This was the

common remedy for toothache. A man could gain relief from the same ailment by wearing the tooth of a dead man about his neck. In view of the average twentieth century individual's extensive dental bill incurred while trying to suppress pains in the teeth, these earlier people may have had a decided advantage.

Magazine advertisements, radio announcements, huge signs all over the country advise us to use Colgate's Tooth Paste, Dr. Lyons Tooth Powder, Pepsodent, etc. Most of these tooth cleaners are really precipitated chalk combined with some perfume, aromatic, or antiseptic. Our ancestors scoured their teeth with compound of cuttlebone, brick dust, and pumic-stone, or coral, snuff, ashes of good

tobacco, and broken-up pieces of course earthenware.

Dentists of today suggest diluted lime water as one of the best mouth washes, although advertisers lead us to believe that we cannot survive without their products. The most popular mouth wash in old New England, called "Dentum Conservator," was made and sold by the manufacturers of "Bryson's Famous Bug Liquid." This fact must have added greatly to its popularity.

Appalling advertisements from New England papers of 1795 give clues to the way missing teeth were replaced and dental plates were constructed:

"Live teeth! Those persons inclined to dispose of live teeth may apply to the Templeman."

"A generous price paid for human front teeth perfectly sound by Dr. Skinner." Present-day dental plates are entirely artificial and constructed by accurate, sanitary methods.

Modern dentistry is a very axacting profession; it takes years of practice, study, schooling, and consumes every minute of the active dentist's time. The first dentists in our country became official over-night, were self-taught, and performed other duties in addition to this one. Paul Revere was a silversmith, engraver, and set teeth; Isaac Greenwood performed dental services, made umbrellas, dice, chessmen, and sold cane for hoop petticoats; William Greenwood pulled teeth and sold pianos.

With all the modern instruments and anesthetics, going to the dentist holds little or no fear for most of us. One of the cruellest instruments of torture of the eighteenth century, however, was the key-draught teeth-puller. It always caused unutterable anguish and usually broke the jawbone when used.

Think about these things and be glad that you and your teeth live today, and did not exist "yesterday!"

## Grandmother Looks On

ROSEMARY RONSHEIM

Pretend for a little while that you are seventy or eighty years old. Put yourself in the position of your grandmother who has come to live with you since grandfather died. It is seven-thirty in the morning and you are sitting in the living room. You have probably received a brief "good-morning" when you stepped into the kitchen and may have been brushed aside as someone leaped to save the burning toast. You very sensibly have announced, "I'll go away until the children are off to school."

In the kitchen, the children are casting

meaningful glances at one another signifying that grandmother loves the role of the martyr. You didn't intend for it to sound that way; you were merely being sensible. Wanting to help the children get to school on time, you carefully watch the clock, since it is the one little way you can be of some good in the home. At exactly a quarter till eight you call out, as you have every morning since school began, "Children, the bus goes in five minutes."

You know this is an important matter and wonder why you never receive any thanks. There is only a grumbling and